

REMARKS

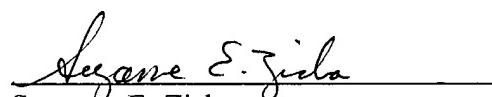
Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 1-30 are pending in the application. Claims 28, 29 and 30 are newly added. Support for the new claims can be found in original claim 24 and elsewhere in the specification. It is believed that no new matter has been introduced by this Preliminary Amendment.

Except for issue fees payable under 37 C.F.R. § 1.18, the Commissioner is hereby authorized by this paper to charge any additional fees during the entire pendency of this application including fees due under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 and § 1.17 which may be required, including any required extension of time fees, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account 50-0310. This paragraph is intended to be a **Constructive Petition for Extension of Time** in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a)(3).

It is believed the application is in condition for examination on the merits and such is respectfully requested. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, an interview would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the telephone number provided below.

Dated: **February 25, 2004**
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Respectfully submitted,
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